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## Trapping Starlings

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# trapping Starlings

Prepared by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Agriculture Administration Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, in cooperation with State agricultural, conservation and health agencies.

This leaflet has been prepared for distribution during the fruit crop season. Most of the information was condensed from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service leaflets on starling trapping. The trap was developed for starling control in orchards. Substantial reduction of fruit damage has resulted in areas where traps have been properly placed and tended. Conditions in fruit growing areas may vary according to geographical location. Regardless of the area, trap placement will be governed by the habits of the starlings. Hence, if you construct and use a trap, it will be necessary to adapt its placement to your conditions. However, the basic design of the trap should not be altered.

It cannot be overemphasized that success in trapping lies in correct placement and daily service. Traps must be situated in local flyways. This requires close observations of local bird movements and flight patterns into fruit plantations.

Do not set traps among trees but in open areas where starlings in flight can readily see the baited traps and decoys.

In some states, traps were baited with one or two boxes of cull apples. The acceptance of this bait may vary with local conditions. If apples are not attractive to starlings in your area, try other foods such as fine-cracked corn or a pelleted, complete ration feed in a 3/32" or 5/32" size.

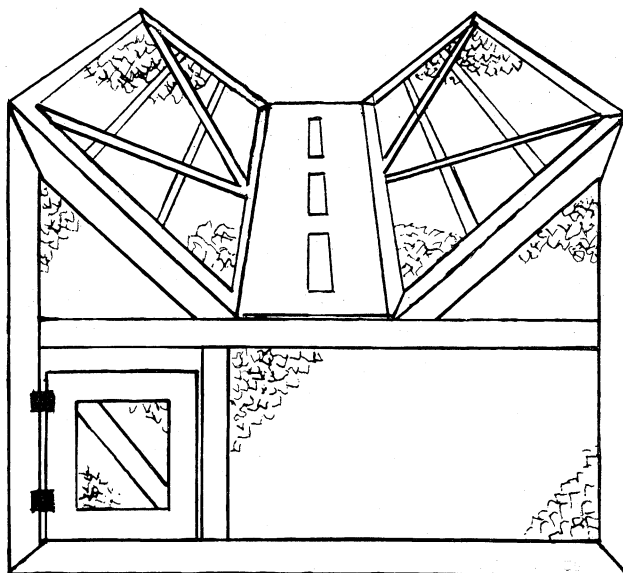
Ten or twelve live starlings should be kept in a trap at all times as decoys. Provide plenty of fresh water to keep them alive. An old tire, split down the middle, will make two water containers.

## TRAP CONSTRUCTION

The construction of a trap is relatively simple. One inch chicken wire is used. Side and end panels are covered with wire on the outside, top panels are covered on the inside of the frame.

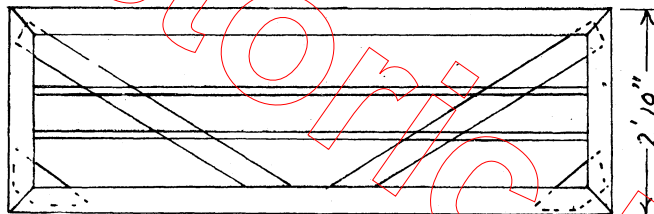
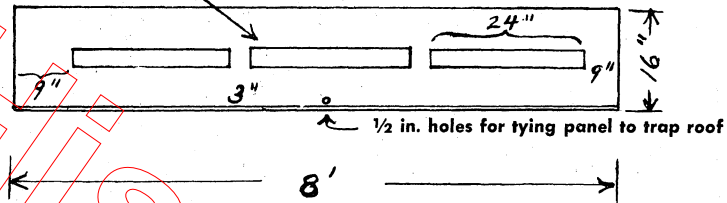
The entrance (narrow slits in the plywood center panel through which starlings enter the trap) was perfected after two years of careful study. It allows birds to enter but is escape-proof. Therefore, measurements pertaining to the one and three-fourths inch openings and the minimum nine-inch allowance at both ends are critical and should be strictly adhered to.

Assembled Starling Trap

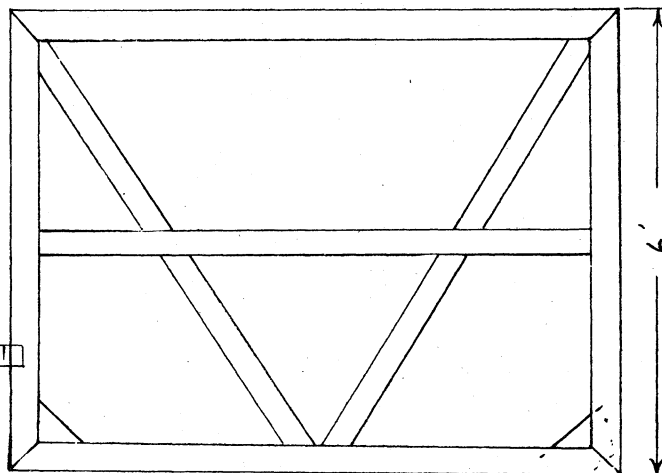


CONSULT STATE AND LOCAL LAWS BEFORE TRAPPING

Entrance panel (plywood)  
Entrance slots must be exactly  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide



Top panel (make two)

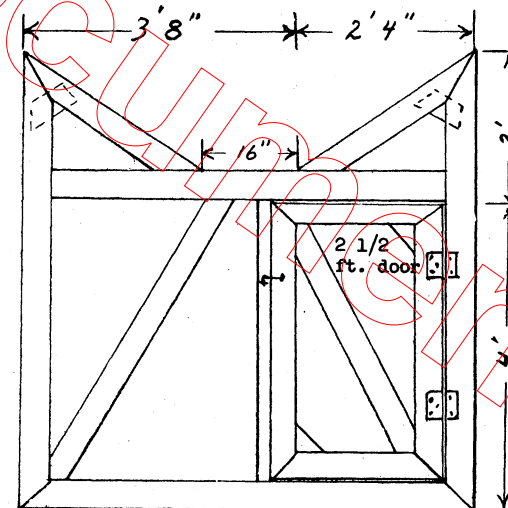


Notched brackets  
may be used for  
quick assembly.

Side panel (make two)

## MATERIALS NEEDED FOR TRAP

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 15 pieces 1 x 4s 8 ft. long                 | 1 piece $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16 in. exterior |
| 25 pieces 1 x 4s 6 ft. long                 | plywood 8 ft. long                      |
| 4 pieces 1 x 1s 8 ft. long                  | 2 hinges 2 lbs. staples                 |
| 40 ft. length 6 ft. chicken wire 1 in. mesh |   |



Front panel  
Rear panel (omit door)